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REMARKS

Claims 1 – 28 are pending in the present Application. Claims 29 – 35 have been added, leaving Claims 1 – 35 for consideration upon entry of the present Amendment.

Claims 29 – 35 has been added to further claim the present invention. Support for these new claims can at least be found in Paragraphs [0022], [0026], and [0047], as well as Figure 9 as originally filed.

No new matter has been introduced by these new claims. Reconsideration and allowance of the claims are respectfully requested in view of the following remarks.

Claim Objections

Claims 18 – 20, 14 – 16, 22 – 24, and 26 – 28 have been objected to as depending upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Applicants note that Claim 28 depends from allowed Claim 1, and therefore should be allowed. With respect to the remainder of the rejected claims, as is noted below, Applicants contend that the base claims are allowable over the art of record. Hence, these objected to claims are allowable as written. Reconsideration and withdrawal of this objection are respectfully requested.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b)

Claims 13, 17, 21, and 25 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b), as allegedly anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 3,847,805 to Voedisch. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

To anticipate a claim, a reference must disclose each and every element of the claim. *Lewmar Marine v. Varient Inc.*, 3 U.S.P.Q.2d 1766 (Fed. Cir. 1987).

As is clear from all portions of Voedisch cited by the Examiner, Voedisch teaches “unscreened distribution and weep holes” (Abstract). Hence, Voedisch at least fails to teach “a screen disposed at said perforation” (Claims 13 and 17); “said distributor having a plurality of screen-covered perforations disposed therein” (Claim 21); and said collector having a plurality of perforations with screens disposed over said perforations” (Claim 25). Actually, Voedisch teaches away from the present claims, teaching “unscreened” distribution holes. Voedisch fails

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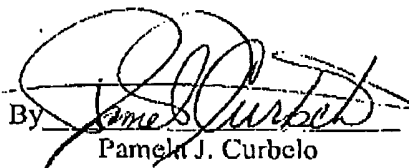
to anticipate or render obvious the claims of the present application. Reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection are respectfully requested.

It is believed that the foregoing amendments and remarks fully comply with the Office Action and that the claims herein should now be allowable to Applicants. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the objection(s) and rejection(s) and allowance of the case are respectfully requested.

If there are any additional charges with respect to this Amendment or otherwise, please charge them to Deposit Account No. 07-0862.

Respectfully submitted,

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